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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,538	09/15/2003	Peter S. Lu	VITA-002CIP2	5609
24353	7590	05/18/2006	EXAMINER	
BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP 1900 UNIVERSITY AVENUE SUITE 200 EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303			BUNNER, BRIDGET E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1647	

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/663,538	LU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Bridget E. Bunner	1647	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-20 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - A. Claims 1-6, 8-12, and 15-17, drawn to an isolated CLASP-2 polynucleotide, an expression vector, a host cell system, and a method of producing an CLASP-2 polypeptide, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1, for example.
 - B. Claims 7 and 18-20, drawn to an isolated CLASP-2 polypeptide, classified in class 530, subclass 350.
 - C. Claims 13-14, drawn to an isolated CLASP-2 antisense polynucleotide, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

- a. Inventions A-C are directed to related products. The related inventions are distinct if the inventions as claimed do not overlap in scope, i.e., are mutually exclusive; the inventions as claimed are not obvious variants; and the inventions as claimed are either not capable of use together or can have a materially different design, mode of operation, function, or effect. See MPEP § 806.05(j). In the instant case, Groups A-C are directed to products that are distinct both physically and functionally, are not required one for the other, and are therefore patentably distinct. For example, the protein of Group B can be prepared by processes which are materially different from recombinant DNA expression of Group A, such as by chemical synthesis, or by isolation and purification from natural sources. Additionally, the DNA of Group A can be used other than to make the protein of Group B, such as a probe in nucleic acid hybridization assays. Finally, Group C is directed to an antisense nucleic acid molecule, which is not a template for protein synthesis and may be used as potential therapeutic to stop transcription or translation of pathogens or an inappropriately expressed host gene.

Furthermore, searching the inventions of Groups I-III together would impose a serious search burden. In the instant case, the search for the DNA, protein, and antisense are not coextensive.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02) and different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is also required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Groups 1-4. The inventions as they pertain to each of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, or 9, classification dependent upon the nature of the inventions.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

b. Inventions 1-4 are directed to related products. The related inventions are distinct if the inventions as claimed do not overlap in scope, i.e., are mutually exclusive; the inventions as claimed are not obvious variants; and the inventions as claimed are either not capable of use together or can have a materially different design, mode of operation, function, or effect. See MPEP § 806.05(j). In the instant case, each of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, or 9 is a unique nucleotide sequence, requiring a unique search of the prior art. Searching all of the sequences in a single patent application would provide an undue search burden on the examiner and the USPTO's resources because of the non-coextensive nature of these searches.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their separate search requirements, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

3. Restriction to one of the following inventions is also required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Groups 5-8. The inventions as they pertain to each of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6, or 10, classification dependent upon the nature of the inventions.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

- c. Inventions 5-8 are directed to related products. The related inventions are distinct if the inventions as claimed do not overlap in scope, i.e., are mutually exclusive; the inventions as claimed are not obvious variants; and the inventions as claimed are either not capable of use together or can have a materially different design, mode of operation, function, or effect. See MPEP § 806.05(j). In the instant case, each of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6, or 10 is a unique amino acid sequence, requiring a unique search of the prior art. Searching all of the sequences in a single patent application would provide an undue search burden on the examiner and the USPTO's resources because of the non-coextensive nature of these searches.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their separate search requirements, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of protein containing a PDZ domain:

- i. PSD95
- ii. DLG1
- iii. neDLG

The species are independent or distinct because each requires separate, non-coextensive searches. For example, a technical literature search for CLASP-2 binding to a PDZ domain of PSD95 may not result in relevant art with respect to CLASP-2 binding to a PDZ domain of DLG1 or neDLG.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claim 1 is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

In order to be fully responsive, Applicant must select one from Groups A-C, one from 1-4, and one from 5-8. Applicant is advised that A-C, 1-4, and 5-8 are not species election requirements; rather, each of A-C, 1-4, and 5-8 is a restriction requirement.

If Applicant selects Invention A, one species from the PDZ domain containing peptide group must be chosen to be fully responsive.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bridget E. Bunner whose telephone number is (571) 272-0881. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brenda Brumback can be reached on (571) 272-0961. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BEB
Art Unit 1647
15 May 2006

Bridget E. Bunner

BRIDGET BUNNER
PATENT EXAMINER